

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

Initialization (INIT) is understood as meaning a routine for the input of initialization data taking place on one occasion at the single point of entry of the destination country before the machine is put into operation. For this purpose, a means of authorization is brought into operative connection with the mailing machine and is designed as an easily exchangeable electronic hardware unit (dongle or chip card). The latter is connected to the mailing machine either directly or indirectly via a data source, for example a personal computer PC. The mailing machine, for example a franking machine, has an unremovable program memory with an initialization program and a postal security module (postal security device or secure accounting device), which is designed as a means of checking the authorization of the input of initialization data. The latter takes place, when there is authorization, directly by using the keyboard of the franking machine or indirectly via the PC or laptop or from a data center into the meter or security module. The means of authorization, i.e., the authorization device, is brought into operative connection with the meter via interfaces of the PC or the machine.